

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 26 and 37 are amended, and claims 38-45 are newly added. Claims 18-45 are now pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

Claims 18-20, 23-31, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of US Patent No. 5,038,467 to Murphy ("Murphy") and US Patent No. 4,627,161 to Cushman ("Cushman"). In addition, claims 21, 22, and 32-34 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Murphy, Cushman, US Patent No. 4,533,199 to Feldberg ("Feldberg"), and US Patent No. 6,449,838 to Murakami ("Murakami"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 18 describes pressing ends of spring contacts of an electronic device against bottom portions of recesses in a substrate. Claim 18 describes the recesses as "rigid, conductive recesses in said substrate" and "comprising a bottom portion disposed within said substrate." Thus, the "bottom portion" described in claim 18 is part of a *recess in a substrate* and must be *disposed within* the substrate. Murphy's pin 14 is not part of a recess in any substrate, nor is pin 14 disposed within any substrate. Murphy therefore lacks a "rigid conductive [recess] in said substrate . . . comprising a bottom portion disposed within said substrate." Cushman does not make up for the above-described deficiency in Murphy. Therefore, independent claim 18 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Murphy and Cushman.

Two elements in particular are recited by independent claim 26: (1) pressing spring contact elements against rigid terminals, and (2) maintaining "electrical connections between said elongate spring contacts and said rigid terminals . . . substantially entirely due to said pressing." Nowhere does Murphy disclose performing both of the foregoing elements. At best, Murphy discloses performing one *or* the other of these elements.

In the Office Action, Murphy's Figures 7 and 8 were identified as allegedly showing performance of element (1) above, and Murphy's Figures 12, 13, 13a, 14, and 14a were identified as allegedly showing performance of element (2) above. The embodiment that corresponds to Figures 7 and 8 is, however, mutually exclusive of the embodiment that corresponds to Figures 12, 13, 13a, 14, and 14a. In order for pin 14 in Figure 8 to be pressed against post 42, pin 14 must pass through and exit socket 50, as shown in Figure 8. Yet, in order for socket 126 to

impart an upward force on pin 136, pin 136 cannot pass through and exit socket 126 or be pressed against anything rigid. (See Murphy col. 5, lines 34-40; Figure 14a.) Indeed, for the socket 126 of Figure 14a to impart an upward force on pin 136, pin 136 cannot be pressed against anything rigid but must be pressed against the springiness of the socket 126 because the springiness of the socket 126 imparts the upward force.

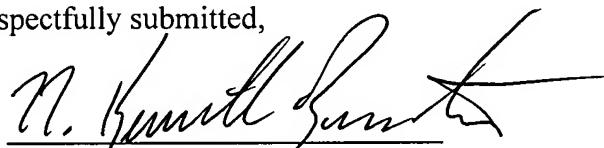
In short, Murphy discloses no way of *both* (1) pressing . . . contact elements against rigid terminals, and (2) maintaining "electrical connections between said . . . contacts and said rigid terminals . . . substantially entirely due to said pressing." Cushman does not make up for this deficiency in Murphy. Therefore, independent claim 26 patentably distinguishes over the combination of Murphy and Cushman.

Claims 19-25 and 27-45 depend from one of claims 18 or 26 and are therefore also patentable.

New claims 38-45 further describe the recesses in the substrate and thereby further distinguish over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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